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Preparations for the next decade of the EHEA – after 2020

1. Aim

The BFUG intends to elaborate a plan for the future of the EHEA after 2020. The discussion should concern the **vision of the EHEA in the future, its thematic priorities and modes of governance**. The development of a **10 year plan / strategy** should be initiated.

The full involvement of all BFUG members and stakeholders is fundamental for the success of this discussion.

2. Background

The Paris Communiqué proposed a more ambitious EHEA beyond 2020, in order to enable higher education to play its role fully in meeting the challenges faced by our societies.

The next decade of EHEA should focus, inter-alia, on cross-disciplinary and cross-border cooperation; inclusive and innovative approaches to learning and teaching; transnational cooperation in higher education, research and innovation, through synergies between the EHEA and the European Research Area (ERA); securing a sustainable future through meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); promoting mutual learning and joint initiatives, such as social inclusion and the wider role of education; strengthening the social dimension of higher education.

Following the Paris meeting, the BFUG had the mandate to submit proposals for the main priorities for the next decade, in close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff and students, and for the governance of EHEA. To this end, the BFUG submitted a survey on *Governance and thematic priorities after 2020* to BFUG Members and Consultative members in October 2018 (available on <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/63a9891e-b9dc-7ef0-5fec-7ef5ddb9a288>).

The results of the survey were presented to the BFUG Board in February 2019 and are presented to the BFUG in April 2019.

3. Roadmap:

A roadmap for the necessary activities has been prepared and discussed by the Board (February 2019). A draft of the roadmap (here below) is presented to the BFUG for final discussion and approval at its April 2019 meeting..

When	What	By whom
April – October 2019	Consultations at national level	BFUG members
April – October 2019	Stakeholders consult their members	BFUG consultative members
4-5 April 2019	BFUG meeting: presentation of survey results; decision on roadmap and methodology	BFUG, prepared by Board and Secretariat

When	What	By whom
April – May 2019	Follow-up survey to narrow down topics and further elaborate the vision	BFUG Board and Secretariat
24-25 June 2019	June: Bologna Anniversary Conference, with the involvement of BFUG	BFUG and Secretariat, in cooperation with Bologna University
24 September 2019	BFUG Board meeting with follow-up discussion on the vision and the topics	BFUG Board and Secretariat
12-13 November 2019	BFUG meeting, with longer thematic discussion on the vision and the topics	BFUG and Secretariat
November-December 2019	Bologna Researchers' Conference (tbc)	Romania
December 2019 – January 2020	Board will prepare a proposal for discussion in 1 st BFUG meeting in 2020	BFUG Board and Secretariat
February 2020 (tbc)	1 st BFUG meeting 2020: discussion on concrete proposals	BFUG, Secretariat and Drafting Committee
early 2020	European Commission conference (tbc)	European Commission
February-April 2020	Board will prepare a proposal for discussion in 2 nd BFUG meeting in 2020	BFUG Board, Secretariat and Drafting Committee
April 2020 (tbc)	2 nd BFUG meeting 2020: endorsement of proposals, to be taken on board for the Communiqué	BFUG, Secretariat and Drafting Committee

4. Discussion points for the BFUG:

- How other events can be added to the Roadmap, following clear rules.
- Creation of a dedicated webpage on the EHEA website to support this broad discussion, including links to events organised by countries and stakeholders.
- What the mechanism to collect feed-back / outcomes from different events should be.
- Constant follow-up by the Board must be ensured between the Board meetings, preferably via skype.